(b) All efforts are made to obtain a final decision on project proposals within a period of 90 days and communicated to the proponent within 30 days thereafter from the date of receipt of complete information and other relevant details asked for from the project proponents.

Shutting down of Goods Shed at Howrah

2557. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to shut down the railway goods shed located at Howrah;

(b) if so, whether the implications of such a decision for trade and transactions in the eastern and north-eastern sectors of the country have been taken into consideration; and

(c) whether Government will be agreeable to refer the issue for examination to a Committee of experts before implementing the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Howrah goods shed is operational and has not been closed. The goods shed is situated immediately after the Howrah coaching station at the southern end. Remodelling and expansion of Howrah Coaching Station is due now to deal with future growth and pattern of suburban and non-suburban passenger Services. The modalities for this purpose were examined by two expert committees and the plan for remodelling and expansion of the coaching station has been finalised. Further, a task force with representatives from the Planning Commission, West Bengal Govt., Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority, Calcutta Port Trust, Calcutta Corporation, Eastern, South Eastern and Metro Railways had also submitted report in 1983 recommending development of additional coaching facilities by shifting Howrah goods. The Railway Reforms Committee (RRC) had also recommended shifting of Howrah goods shed in their report in 1983. Hence nomination of another expert Committee on this issue does not seem necessary.

With the need for dealing with the ever increasing coaching traffic, there would be a need to shift the Howrah goods shed in the due course. Dankuni, which is at a distance of about 15 kms. from Howrah goods shed, is already dealing with bulk traffic and closure of the goods shed at Howrah is not likely to have any adverse implications on the trade and commercial transactions with any part of the country.

News Report Regarding Loss of Tagore's Works

2558. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the report captioned "Tagore's works lost by Kala Bhawan" appearing in the Asian Age dated the 12th August, 1996;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to hold any high level enquiry and fix the responsibility for such incalculable damage to our cultural heritage; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to ensure the safe upkeep of such valuable items in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Vice-Chancellor, Visva-Bharati, has constituted a fact-finding Committee to investigate the status of objects of Art in Kala-Bhawana vis-a-vis the process of accession to the same and to suggest, inter alia, ways and means for upkeep and maintenance of the objects of Art in Kala-Bhawana.